



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R 1527: The Long Term Care Veterans Choice Act

Background:

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Medical Foster Home program (MFH), provides a non-institutional long-term care alternative for eligible veterans. Currently, VA does provide care team support to MFHs, but does not have the authority to pay for the cost of MFHs. As a result, veterans must use personal or other funding sources should they choose this alternative rather than nursing homes.

MFHs first started as a pilot program in 2000, and since then VA has served over 4,000 veterans in the program. The typical rate for care at an MFH is \$1,500 - \$3,000 a month, which is less than the typical rate of \$7,000 a month found at traditional nursing homes.

MFHs provide a great option for veterans who are more comfortable living in a non-institutionalized, family-like setting. At an MFH, veterans can live in a private home where there is a trained caregiver available for around-the-clock care. The facilities also provide assistance with daily activities, medication management, and other necessary services.

This bill would authorize VA, during a three-year period, to place into medical foster homes that meet VA standards up to 900 veterans for whom VA is currently required to provide nursing home care.

The Message:

- VA should be authorized to pay for the cost of MFHs, giving veterans who are otherwise eligible for nursing home care the choice of residing in a more family like setting, without having to pay out-of-pocket.
- On average, the care at MFHs cost less per month than at a traditional nursing home.
- This legislation would ensure that VA would be authorized to pay the costs for eligible veterans who prefer to live in an MFH.